

~~Secret~~**Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—January 1997**

This description of incidents and situations is not meant to be a detailed accounting of all domestic terrorist incidents, but rather to provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide.

Asia**India**

A bomb hidden in a scooter taxi exploded in a high-security residential area of Srinagar on 3 January, killing four persons and wounding three others. A Kashmiri separatist group called the *Jamiat-Ul-Mujahideen* claimed responsibility.

Naxalites belonging to the outlawed *People's War Group* attacked a police station on 10 January in Andhra Pradesh, killing 16 policemen and two civilians.

Philippines

On 6 January suspected members of the *Abu Sayyaf Group* detonated a bomb in a crowded movie theater in Illigan City on Mindanao, injuring 14 persons.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels opened fire on soldiers escorting the Mayor of Buldon on 16 January, killing two soldiers and wounding two others.

Sri Lanka

On 18 January, *Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)* guerrillas attacked a police outpost in Kanugawewa, killing 22 policemen and wounding 20 others.

Europe**Spain**

Suspected *Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)* militants attacked the Barajas airport in Madrid with grenades on 6 January, causing minor damage to a vehicle.

Gunmen shot and killed a Spanish Army officer as he stepped out of his car near his home in Madrid on 8 January. The assailants abandoned their getaway vehicle in front of a shopping center and detonated a bomb hidden inside, injuring two persons and causing minor damage. The *ETA* is suspected.

Assailants firebombed several public telephones, automated teller machines, and a bookstore in San Sebastian on 12 January, causing major damage to the bookstore. The same day masked youths set fire to a bus in Pamplona. Youth members or sympathizers of *ETA* probably are responsible, according to authorities.

Arsonists set fire to a train station on 21 January in Durango, causing minor damage to two railroad cars but no injuries. *ETA* youth sympathizers are suspected.

Turkey

Authorities defused a pipe bomb found in a package in Istanbul's Bakirkoy seaport on 10 January. The *Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)* is suspected.

Authorities defused a bomb found in a bag next to an automatic teller machine at an Istanbul train station on 21 January. The *PKK* is suspected.

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Implications

Gulf extremists would become more dangerous if they were to adopt suicide operations as a tactic. Previous instances of suicide operations demonstrate that the tactic has enabled the terrorists to conduct operations despite nominally tight security because they do not need an escape route:

- In the bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Lebanon in 1983, the truck crashed through the gate past unarmed guards. Similarly, in the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, one car destroyed the gate and the guardhouse with an explosive, clearing the way for the truck carrying the main charge.
- Several groups, including Kashmiri Islamic extremists and the Sri Lankan Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), use individuals wearing explosive

belts to attack dignitaries in large public gatherings, including former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The PIJ and HAMAS have used tandem bombers, one of whom serves as a diversion.

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